www.thekabultimes.com twitter.com/thekabultimes info@thekabultimes.com facebook.com/thekabultimes

THE KABUL TIMES

Founded in 1962 Saratan 31-1405 Wednesday 22 July 2026 INo: 101 -Vol: LXIV

DAILY

Kabul 31° Sunny | Kandahar 42° Sunny | Herat 33° Sunny | Jalalabad 34° Light Rain | Mazar-e-Sharif 37° Sunny | Bamyan 22° Sunny

Azizi Energy Group Purchases Equipment to Generate 10,000 MW of Electricity

KABUL: Azizi Energy Group has purchased the technical equipment required to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity, with the transfer of the equipment to Afghanistan expected to begin soon, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday.

In a meeting with Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mirwais Azizi, head of Azizi Energy Investment Company, said all technical equipment required for the 10,000MW power generation project had been purchased and that the process of transporting the equipment to Afghanistan would begin shortly.

He also announced plans to launch the construction of a major cancer treatment hospital in Afghanistan in the near future, the statement said.

The statement said that a technical committee comprising representatives of relevant government departments and Azizi Energy Investment Company, which has been formed under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, presented its report on ongoing energy projects.

Based on the committee's report, feasibility studies have been completed for a 100MW solar power project in Naghlo, Kabul province, a 100MW solar power project in Barikab, Parwan province, and a 131MW solar power project in Ghazni province.

Power purchase agreements for the projects have also been signed, and practical work has begun at the respective sites, the statement added.

The committee also reported that technical discussions were underway on a 165MW coal-fired power project in Takhar, a 350MW coal-fired power project in Baghlan, the construction of Naghlu and Ghazni substations, and the extension of a power transmission line from Tarakhil in Kabul province to Green Industries, the statement further said, adding that these discussions are expected to be finalized soon.

The committee also put forward recommendations aimed at accelerating the implementation of the projects.

Meanwhile, Beradar praised the committee's achievements and instructed relevant government departments to take further steps to expedite the ongoing work.

He directed that the remaining work in some areas be completed within two weeks and that a report on the progress be submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs.

Beradar assured Azizi Energy Investment Company of full government cooperation and called on its officials to complete the projects with proper quality and within the designated timelines.

The Kabul Times

UK, Turkey, EU, Japan, Iran Express Condolences Over Deadly Nuristan Floods

KABUL: The United Kingdom, Turkey, the European Union, Japan and Iran have expressed condolences to the people of Afghanistan following deadly floods in Nuristan and other eastern parts of the country.

The UK's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Richard Lindsay, expressed solidarity with the victims, their families and rescue teams, while the Turkish Embassy in Kabul offered condolences to the families of those killed and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The EU Delegation in Afghanistan also expressed sympathy with the victims' families and hoped that those missing would be found soon. Japan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Masamoto, conveyed condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to those affected.

Iran's Embassy in Kabul expressed deep sorrow over the disaster and offered condolences to the families of those killed, praying for mercy for the victims and recovery for the injured.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority, the floods have killed 23 people, left more than 100 missing and injured 80 others. The disaster has also caused significant damage to public and private facilities, while rescue and relief efforts continue.

The Kabul Times

First Direct Beijing–Iran–Afghanistan Transit Train Arrives in Herat

TEHRAN: The first direct transit train operating on the Beijing-Iran-Afghanistan route has begun its journey and, for the first time, transported a shipment to Herat through Iran's railway network, Iranian media reported the other day.

The train was carrying 500 metric tons of cargo consisting of fiberboard sheets, and the shipment was unloaded and reloaded before continuing its journey through Iran's railway network to Afghanistan.

The train travelled from Beijing through Turkmenistan and Iran before reaching the Rozanak railway station in Herat via the Khaf-Herat railway line.

Mustafa Rezaei, head of the Iran-Afghanistan Railway Corridor, said the launch of the train marked the entry of the Khaf-Herat railway route into the practical phase of transit and trade development.

According to Rezaei, the new route will help reduce the time and cost of transporting goods between the countries along the route.

The development is expected to strengthen Afghanistan's railway connectivity with regional and international markets and provide an additional transit route for the movement of commercial goods. The train's arrival in Herat also highlights the potential of the Khaf-Herat railway line to play a greater role in expanding regional trade and transit connectivity.

The Kabul Times

Delegation Deployed to Nuristan to Assess Flood Damage, Assist Victims, NDMA

KABUL: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said in a statement on Tuesday that it has dispatched a high-level delegation to Nuristan province to assess the situation and address the needs of residents affected by the recent devastating floods.

The authority said the delegation has been tasked with assessing the current situation on the ground, improving coordination of relief and rescue operations, and ensuring timely assistance is provided to families affected by the natural disaster.

According to the latest figures released by the National Disaster Management Authority, the floods in Nuristan have so far killed 23 people, while more than 100 others remain missing and another 80 people have been injured.

The authority said the delegation would closely assess the impact of the floods and coordinate necessary measures to support affected communities and facilitate ongoing rescue and relief efforts.

The floods have caused extensive damage in parts of Nuristan, with local authorities and relevant government bodies continuing efforts to determine the full extent of the human and material losses. **The Kabul Times**

Afghan Delegation Visits Iran for Economic Cooperation Talks

KABUL: A delegation of Afghan private-sector representatives, led by Haji Kamaluddin Tawhid, head of the Afghanistan-Iran Joint Chamber, has travelled to Iran to participate in the 10th meeting on economic cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting will focus on introducing Afghanistan's market opportunities and economic capacities, while bilateral meetings between businesspeople from the two countries are also scheduled to be held, the chamber said in a statement on Tuesday.

The agenda further includes discussions on expanding trade and economic cooperation and signing memoranda of understanding between representatives of the private sectors of Afghanistan and Iran.

The delegation's participation is expected to provide an opportunity for Afghan and Iranian business communities to explore new areas of cooperation and strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties.

The Kabul Times

Construction of Passenger, Freight Vehicle Terminal Begins in Farah

KABUL: Construction of the first phase of a passenger and freight vehicle terminal worth 127 million Afghanis has begun in the Farah Airport, the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation said in a statement on Tuesday.

The terminal would be built on 1,000 jeribs of land in three sections, the statement said, adding that the project includes the construction of a fuel station, passenger accommodation facilities, shops, an administrative building, a mosque and green spaces, among other facilities.

The project is expected to provide improved facilities for passenger and freight vehicles and contribute to better transport services in the province.

The Kabul Times

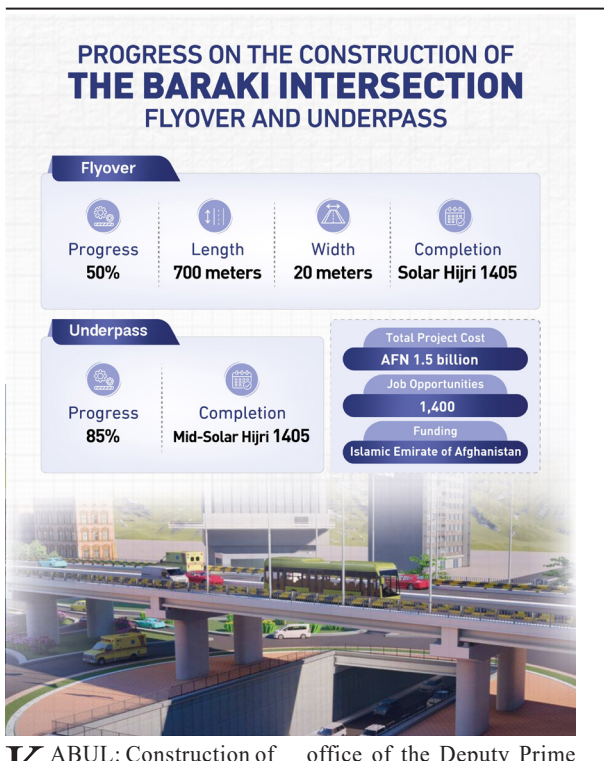
Hospital to Be Constructed in Daman District of Kandahar

KABUL: Public Health Minister Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali laid the foundation stone for a general hospital worth 50 million Afghanis in Daman district of Kandahar province.

Speaking at the ceremony, Jalali described the construction of the hospital as an important step toward reducing patients' difficulties and providing essential healthcare services to local residents, according to a statement from the ministry on Tuesday. "Implementing such projects will improve the quality of healthcare services in remote areas and enable authorities to respond to people's needs promptly," the statement quoted him as saying. Mawlavi Jalali added that the Ministry of Public Health was working to provide quality healthcare services across the country, particularly in remote districts, and ensure people's access to essential health services through similar projects.

The construction of the hospital is expected to be completed within 18 months.

The Kabul Times



KABUL: Construction of the underpass at Baraki Square in Kabul city has reached 85 percent completion, and the project is expected to become operational in the near future, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday.

The statement said construction work on the flyover at the busy intersection has also progressed by 50 percent and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the current solar year.

According to the statement, the Baraki Square flyover will be 700 meters long and 20 meters wide, with half of the construction work completed so far.

The project is being financed by the Islamic Emirate at 1.5 billion Afghanis and has created employment opportunities for around 1,400 people, the statement said.

Baraki Square is considered one of Kabul's busy traffic points, and the ongoing construction has attracted attention from residents and drivers who have raised concerns over severe traffic congestion in the area.

The project is expected to help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in one of the capital's major transportation areas once both the underpass and flyover are completed and put into operation.

The Kabul Times

International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com
Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202 312 509-(+93)766 044 966)
Graphic designers: Baktash, Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Afghanistan as a Casualty, Not a Cause, of Climate Chaos

Every time a flash flood tears through a valley in eastern Afghanistan or a brutal summer drought bakes crops to dust, news reports treat it like a bad turn of local weather. But look past the mud and ruined harvests, and you see something far uglier: a massive global injustice.

Afghanistan is sitting on the front lines of climate collapse, taking hit after hit, even though the country barely produces any carbon at all.

Think about how we got here. For well over two hundred years, the world's biggest industrial powers burned coal, oil, and gas to build massive empires and supercharge their economies. They got rich off pollution. Afghanistan, on the other hand, never went through that industrial boom. Its factories are few, its power grid is minimal, and its total contribution to global emissions is a tiny fraction of a single percent. It's essentially zero.

Yet, when the skies open up and drop weeks of rain in two hours, it's rural Afghan families who end up buried under the debris.

The weather here has gone completely off the rails. Summers bring sudden, violent cloudbursts that turn dry riverbeds into lethal torrents. Winters swing wildly between bone-dry droughts and unseasonal freezing spells. It's a bitter deal: the people who gained the least from the industrial age are getting slammed with its worst consequences.

This isn't just about bad luck with the weather. It shows just how messed up the global priorities are. Big corporate bottom lines and geopolitical flexing always seem to come way before basic human safety. Richer countries just keep dragging their feet on cutting pollution, completely tuning out any talk about paying for the damage they've caused. By doing nothing, they hand off the bill for their pollution to impoverished communities thousands of miles away.

That said, pointing fingers at global polluters doesn't give domestic leaders a free pass. You can't control where the storm comes from, but you can control how ready your people are when it hits.

A country facing this level of environmental risk needs a working playbook. That means setting up early-warning weather systems, training local search-and-rescue teams, managing river basins, and making sure relief funds actually reach victims instead of evaporating.

Blaming outside forces shouldn't be an excuse for poor planning at home.

The reality is simple: Afghanistan isn't a threat to the planet's atmosphere; it's a victim of decisions made in boardrooms and government halls on the other side of the globe.

Fixing this requires more than sending a few bags of grain after a flood wipes out a village. It takes a fundamental shift toward real global fairness—a system built on responsibility, moral duty, and basic justice, where those who broke the climate are forced to help fix it for the ones suffering most.

Stand by the Victims of the Nuristan Floods

By: Ahmad Shaker Zarbi

Afghanistan, still picking up the pieces after decades of war, simply doesn't have that luxury. Earthquakes, landslides, sudden torrents—they hit us out of nowhere. The best our national weather center can do with its limited gear is tell us whether it might rain or snow.

Nature has struck us hard again—and this time, the blow landed squarely on the long-suffering people of Nuristan.

Every single year when the summer heat rolls in, the story repeats itself. Flash floods tear through our valleys, taking lives, wiping out homes, and dragging families into financial ruin. It's a tragic cycle, but it doesn't have to be this relentless. In much of the developed world, modern tech gives people a headstart. Weather centers pick up on incoming threats early, local councils issue warnings, and communities prepare before the water hits.

Afghanistan, still picking up the pieces after decades of war, simply doesn't have that luxury. Earthquakes, landslides, sudden torrents—they hit us out of nowhere. The best our national weather center can do with its limited gear is tell us whether it might rain or snow. Beyond that, people are left in the dark until the rivers start overflowing.

We need to start connecting the dots on how our geography interacts with changing weather. When summer heat spikes, high humidity follows close behind. The scorching sun bakes the land, forcing hot, moisture-heavy air upward at rapid speed. That sudden shift triggers sudden, localized cloudbursts. The rains might only last a short while, but they pack enough force to send deadly walls of water racing down mountain slopes. Knowing temperatures are climbing year after year, we have to start anticipating these spikes and putting practical, community-level safety measures in place.

This past Monday offered a grim reminder of the stakes. Violent floods crashed through Parun—Nuristan's central hub—and tore through surrounding villages. Local authorities have already confirmed over 20 dead, with around 100 people still unaccounted for. Families have seen everything they own swept away in a matter of minutes.

Responding to the tragedy, Islamic Emirate spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid expressed deep grief for the victims and offered prayers for the fast recovery of the injured. In a post on X, he instructed all government branches to jump into action immediately, prioritizing search-and-rescue efforts and getting emergency aid into affected zones without delay.

Given how massive this destruction is, public agencies can't carry the load on their own. This moment demands collective action from all Afghans—particularly business owners and anyone with the means to help. Clean drinking water, basic food supplies, and shelter are needed on the ground right now.

Historically, before international aid groups even get their logistics sorted out, it's local Afghans who step up first for their neighbours. That community spirit is incredible, but a crisis of this scale requires broader backing. Global relief agencies and international donors cannot look away. Urgent help is needed not just to keep families fed today, but to stop the waterborne illnesses that almost always follow in the aftermath of standing floodwaters.

The Disaster Management Authority has already issued fresh warnings for heavy rains and high winds across several provinces, pleading with people to stay clear of riverbanks. They pointed out a reality we can no longer ignore: climate change is hitting Afghanistan disproportionately hard, turning routine seasonal weather into full-blown human disasters.

Afghan Carpets: A Path to Economic Self-Reliance

By: S. Naser Watandost

Part I

For centuries, Afghan carpets have been celebrated as some of the world's finest handmade textiles, admired for their exceptional craftsmanship, intricate designs, natural dyes, and remarkable durability.

More than decorative floor coverings, they represent Afghanistan's rich cultural heritage, artistic identity, and economic potential.

As international demand continues to grow, Afghan carpets are increasingly becoming an important source of income for thousands of families and a valuable export that can contribute significantly to the country's economic development.

Afghan carpets have long earned a distinguished reputation in international markets. Their unique patterns, vibrant colors, and handwoven quality have won recognition at global exhibitions, including prestigious trade fairs in Europe, where Afghan weavers have received numerous awards for excellence. Today, these carpets are exported to nearly 40 countries, including Turkey, Germany, the United States, Canada, several European nations, and countries across the Middle East.

Following the political transition in Afghanistan, the carpet industry experienced a temporary slowdown as production and exports faced uncertainty.

However, cooperation between the Islamic Emirate, private businesses, and industry associations has helped revive the sector.

According to the Afghan Carpet Producers and Exporters Union, the industry currently produces approximately 10,000 square meters of carpets each month and provides employment for more than 15,000 people, the majority of whom are women.

The global appeal of Afghan carpets lies in their authenticity. Unlike mass-produced machine-made products, each Afghan carpet is hand-crafted using techniques that have been passed down through generations.

Skilled artisans spend months, and sometimes years, weaving every piece with extraordinary precision.

Natural dyes extracted from plants, roots, and minerals create colors that remain vibrant for decades, while traditional designs reflect the history and cultural diversity of Afghanistan.

Among the country's most renowned carpets are the Turkmen and Uzbek carpets produced in northern Afghanistan, the distinctive Shindand and Adraskan carpets from Herat Province, and the famous Baluchi carpets woven in Farah, Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Herat, and neighboring regions. Each style reflects local traditions and artistic identity while contributing to Afghanistan's reputation as one of the world's leading producers of handmade carpets.

The carpet industry plays a far greater role than preserving cultural heritage. It is a cornerstone of Afghanistan's rural economy.

Thousands of households depend directly on carpet weaving for their livelihoods, particularly in communities where alternative employment opportunities remain limited.

Women, who make up a large share of the workforce, often weave carpets from their homes, enabling them to earn an income while preserving traditional skills.

The industry's economic impact extends well beyond individual families. Strong carpet exports generate foreign exchange earnings, support small businesses, stimulate trade, and strengthen Afghanistan's position in international markets. As global consumers increasingly seek sustainable, handmade, and ethically produced products, Afghan carpets are well positioned to benefit from this growing demand.

Despite these advantages, the sector continues to face several challenges. Many Afghan carpets are exported to neighboring countries for washing, finishing, labeling, and packaging before reaching international markets.

As a result, a significant portion of the value added is captured outside Afghanistan. The lack of modern processing facilities, limited branding, logistical constraints, and competition from inexpensive machine-made carpets continue to reduce the industry's full economic potential.

The Tragedy of Nuristan & the Tireless Efforts of IEA!

By:Munir Farooqi

The recent severe flash floods in Parun and Mandol districts of Nuristan province has once again faced our countrymen with a painful tragedy, affecting the lives of dozens of families, causing huge financial losses, and leaving a number of our countrymen martyred, injured, and missing. The prompt presence and tireless efforts of the Islamic Emirate's rescue team and security forces in such difficult moments are certainly worthy of praise and appreciation. The rescue teams and Security forces of the Islamic Emirate used all possible means to save their countrymen, while facing great dangers, and losing their life in the service of their people.

May Allah Almighty accept their great sacrifice. The courage, selflessness, and spirit of saving the people of these heroes are worthy of praise and respect, and their sacrifices will be eternal in the memory of the people. If Allah willing, on the other hand, the Islamic Emirate will use all means to provide all necessary emergency aid, assess the affected areas, continue the rescue operation, and support of the needy families, which indicates the responsibility and commitment of the government. Such disasters require all relevant government agencies, national businessmen, charitable institutions, and wealthy citizens to support the affected families, so that they can reduce their grief and return to their normal lives. Based on reports, the bodies of a number of martyrs have been found so far, and many others are still missing. It is needed to accelerate the rescue and search operations and urgently deliver the necessary food, health, and shelter assistance to the affected areas. However, we must learn an important lesson from this tragedy that Afghanistan is a country prone to natural disasters due to its mountainous terrain and severe climate change. Therefore, in order to prevent disasters and reduce losses, more work is needed in the areas of flood risk assessment, construction of retaining walls and protective structures, regulation of river channels, planting trees, strengthening meteorological warnings, and equipping and training rapid rescue teams. Moreover, public awareness programs should be expanded so that people know the necessary measures to protect themselves and their families during natural disasters.

Nuristan is not just the home and province of Nuristanis, but the common home of all Afghans. The pain of the people of this province is the pain of the entire nation; therefore, supporting them at this critical time is our shared national and Islamic responsibility. The meaning of the hadith of the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) is that Muslims are like one body; if one part of the body hurts, the whole body suffers. We hope, along with the government, national and international humanitarian institutions, charitable organizations, and all wealthy citizens will come to support and provide all necessary aids to the affected families, so that the effects of this great tragedy can be minimized as much as possible and their lives can return to normal. National unity, responsibility, and practical cooperation during crises are the values that give every nation the strength to overcome difficulties. We must learn lessons from such incidents, take all necessary measures to prevent such disasters in the future, and increase the level of preparedness against disasters. The result will be that the losses from such tragedies will be greatly reduced in the future and the lives of our countrymen will be further protected.

Nuristan's Tragedy: A Call for National Unity and Global Solidarity

By: Azar Rasikh

Natural disasters often arrive without warning, but their consequences linger long after the floodwaters recede. The recent devastating floods in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nuristan have once again reminded the nation of its vulnerability to climate-related disasters and the urgent need for solidarity, preparedness, and humanitarian action. Beyond the tragic loss of life and widespread destruction, this catastrophe is a call for national unity and international compassion.

According to official reports, torrential floods swept through Paroon, the provincial capital of Nuristan, and several surrounding districts, leaving a trail of devastation. Over 23 people have lost their lives, more than 80 have been injured, and over 100 others remain missing as search-and-rescue operations continue. Homes, shops, agricultural land, and critical infrastructure have been severely damaged, leaving hundreds of families without shelter or livelihoods.

The scale of the disaster has prompted an immediate response from the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Islamic Emirate spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid expressed deep condolences over the tragedy, extending sympathy to the bereaved families and wishing a speedy recovery for the injured. He called on all government institutions to mobilize every available resource to save lives, protect property, and ensure that emergency assistance reaches affected communities without delay. His appeal underscores the importance of coordinated action at a time when every hour can mean the difference between life and death.

The efforts of emergency responders, local volunteers, security personnel, healthcare workers, and ordinary residents deserve special recognition. Despite difficult terrain, damaged roads, and challenging weather conditions, many individuals risked their own safety to rescue those trapped by the floods. Their courage, selflessness, and determination reflect the enduring spirit of the Afghan people. Such acts of humanity remind us that in moments of crisis, compassion often becomes the strongest force available.

Yet the challenges facing Nuristan extend far beyond rescue operations. Families who survived the floods now confront the harsh reality of losing their homes, farms, livestock, businesses, and sources of income. Children have been displaced, many households are without clean drinking water, and the threat of disease often follows disasters of this magnitude. Rebuilding lives will require sustained support long after emergency teams leave the affected areas.

The tragedy has also drawn expressions of sympathy from the international community. The Embassy of Japan in Afghanistan conveyed its condolences to the families of the victims, with Ambassador Masamuto expressing heartfelt sympathy and wishing the injured a swift recovery. The embassy reaffirmed Japan's solidarity with the people of Nuristan during this difficult period. Earlier, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul also extended condolences to the victims' families and expressed its sympathy with those affected by the deadly floods. These humanitarian gestures demonstrate that compassion transcends political boundaries and offers hope to communities experiencing profound loss.

However, condolences alone are not enough. The people of Nuristan urgently require practical assistance. Humanitarian organizations, charitable foundations, United Nations agencies, and international non-governmental organizations should work closely with the relevant Afghan authorities to provide emergency shelter, food, clean water, medical supplies, sanitation services, and psychosocial support. Rapid humanitarian assistance can help prevent a secondary crisis caused by hunger, disease, or prolonged displacement.

Afghan traders, business leaders, and the private sector also have an important role to play. Throughout Afghanistan's history, merchants have often stood beside their fellow citizens during times of hardship. Today is another opportunity to demonstrate that commitment. Financial donations, food supplies, construction materials, clothing, medicine, and transportation assistance can significantly ease the suffering of affected families. Corporate social responsibility is not merely an economic concept—it is a moral obligation when communities face extraordinary hardship.

Likewise, Afghan citizens, civil society organizations, and charitable institutions can contribute according to their means. Even small acts of generosity, whether through donations, volunteer work, or community fundraising campaigns, collectively make a meaningful difference. National solidarity becomes especially important when remote provinces such as Nuristan face disasters that may otherwise receive limited attention.

The recent floods also highlight the growing impact of climate change on Afghanistan. Although the country contributes only a tiny share of global greenhouse gas emissions, it remains among the nations most vulnerable to climate-related disasters. Repeated floods, prolonged droughts, extreme heat, and unpredictable weather patterns have become increasingly frequent, placing enormous pressure on agriculture, food security, and rural livelihoods. Strengthening disaster preparedness, improving early warning systems, investing in resilient infrastructure, and protecting watersheds should therefore become long-term national priorities.

At the same time, rebuilding Nuristan presents an opportunity to strengthen resilience. Roads, bridges, schools, health facilities, irrigation systems, and housing should be reconstructed with greater attention to disaster-resistant standards wherever possible. Investing in preparedness today can reduce both human and economic losses in the future.

See P4

THE KABUL TIMES DAILY

Saratan 31-1405 Wednesday 22 July 2026 INo: 101-Vol: LXIV

The Kabul Times – the state-run newspaper–welcomes your advertisements. You can send your ADs to the daily to help you connect with your customers.

+93 700 330 184 Aryagulzar833@gmail.com

USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN 65.95	AFN 86.40	AFN 743	AFN 229	AFN 75.10	AFN 0.35	AFN 17.94

SPORTS

Afghan Air Sports Chief Naveed Popal Dies in Bamyan Training Crash

Afghanistan's sports community is mourning the loss of Naveed Popal, head of the national Air Sports Federation, who died during a training session in Bamyan province.

Officials confirmed Popal was out practicing aerial manoeuvres when the fatal crash happened. He had been leading the federation for the past few years, pouring his energy into growing niche sports like paragliding and skydiving across the country.

The General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports called his death a devastating blow to Afghan athletics. Colleagues remembered him as a pioneer who pushed to build up air sports in Afghanistan despite working with minimal gear and tight funding.

Tributes have been pouring in from fellow athletes, sports heads, and fans across the country, honouring Popal's drive to get Afghan air sports off the ground. **The Kabul Times**

Kabul Hosts First-Ever National Wrestling Premier League

Kabul's 2,500-seat sports arena just filled up as the National Wrestling Federation officially launched Afghanistan's first Premier League. Over the next ten days, ten teams from across the country will battle it out to find the nation's top wrestlers.

The action spans several weight divisions, starting at 57kg all the way up to the heavyweights at 125kg. Beyond picking a winning team, officials are using the league to scout fresh, local talent.

A huge crowd turned out for the opener, including top sports heads, government figures, and fans. Big names on hand included sports chief Mawlawi Ahmadullah Wasiq, Islamic Emirate spokesman Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, and heads from the local Wrestling, Buzkashi, and Bodybuilding federations.

Speaking to the crowd, Wasiq tapped into the sport's deep roots. "Wrestling is part of who we are in Afghanistan," he said, pointing out how much pride locals take in seeing their athletes win medals across Asia and on the world stage.

He promised full support for the athletes and gave a quick nod to Ariana TV for airing the matches live.

Federation head Qari Hayatullah Rahmani wrapped things up by reassuring everyone that the matches would be called completely fair. With ten packed days ahead, the league gives Afghan wrestlers a long-overdue platform to show what they can do on a national stage. **The Kabul Times**

Visa Denials Knock Afghan National Volleyball Team Out of Central Asia Championship

The Afghan national volleyball team won't be taking the court in Islamabad after getting stuck without entry visas.

Officials from the Afghan Volleyball Federation confirmed the worst: the squad is officially out of the Central Asian Zone Championship. The games launch today, but the team is stranded in Kabul.

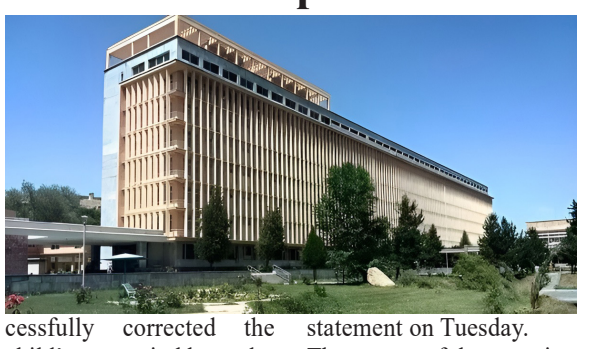
Federation staff say they did everything by the book. They hit up the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul over and over, dropping off paperwork and pushing for player visas well in advance. But embassy officials dragged their feet, giving zero green lights or clear answers before travel day arrived.

It's a brutal blow for the players. They spent months grinding in training camp for this six-nation tournament, hoping to stack up against the best teams in Central Asia and raise their international stock. Instead, all that sweat went down the drain over red tape.

Sports heads in Kabul aren't hiding their frustration. They pointed out how unfair it is when political gridlock and bureaucratic stonewalling crash down on young athletes who just want to play. While five other nations line up in Islamabad today, Afghanistan's best players are left watching from the sidelines. **The Kabul Times**

Successful Open-Heart Surgery on 4-Year Old Child at a Hospital in Kabul

KABUL: A team of cardiac specialists at the 400-bed Shaheed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan Hospital in Kabul has successfully performed a total correction surgery on a four-year-old child suffering from Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), a complex congenital heart disease.



The surgery was carried out at the hospital's cardiac surgery center, where medical specialists successfully corrected the child's congenital heart defect through an open-heart procedure, the Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on Tuesday.

The successful operation reflects the growing capacity of the hospital's cardiac surgery center to treat complex congenital heart conditions and provide specialized medical services to children in Afghanistan, the statement said.

The specialists have so far successfully performed a total of 60 open-heart surgeries for patients suffering from various complex congenital heart diseases, including cases of Tetralogy of Fallot, the statement added. **The Kabul Times**

Afghan Trade Delegation in Uzbekistan to Explore Investment Opportunities

KABUL: Sayed Karim Hashemi, head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, on Tuesday led a high-level delegation of 100 Afghan traders and investors to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to discuss expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation and explore opportunities for joint investment.Hashemi and his accompanying delegation are scheduled to meet with the governor and local officials of Syrdarya province, the ACCI said in a statement. The Afghan delegation will also hold joint meetings with Uzbek traders and investors to discuss ways to expand trade relations, strengthen economic cooperation and explore opportunities for joint investment, the statement said. The visit is expected to provide a platform for representatives from the private sectors of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan to discuss new areas of cooperation and identify opportunities to increase bilateral trade and investment, the statement added. **The Kabul Times**

KSrelief Begins Food Distribution to 3,000 Vulnerable Families in Kabul

KABUL: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) has begun distributing food assistance to 3,000 vulnerable families in Kabul and Surobi district, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said in a statement on Tuesday.

The aid distribution is the final phase of a major food assistance project launched by KSrelief across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan over the past year, the statement said.

The beneficiaries include internally displaced persons, returnees, orphans, widows and other deserving families. The food packages contain flour, cooking oil, sugar, beans and rice, the statement further said.

Mufti Abdul Muttalib, spokesman for the Ministry of Refugees, and Mawlawi Mohammad Ishaq, head of the Kabul Provincial Refugees Department, attended the distribution ceremony alongside journalists and representatives of KSrelief and the Tawhid Welfare Organization for Afghanistan Orphans (TWOAO), the statement added.

KSrelief launched the food assistance project in Afghanistan last year at a cost of more than $3.6 million. Under the project, food packages have been distributed to 60,000 needy families across the country, including people affected by recent earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters.

The project has benefited a total of 420,000 people across Afghanistan, with its final phase in Kabul expected to conclude in the coming days. **The Kabul Times**

Asphalt Work Begins on Second Lane of Bagram-Jabal Saraj Road

KABUL: The Ministry of Public Works has officially launched asphalt paving work on the second lane of the Bagram-Jabal Saraj Road in Parwan province.

The opening ceremony was attended by Parwan Governor Haji Azizur Rahman Mansour, the provincial head of Public Works Mawlavi Ezzatullah Arif, representatives of the contracting company and a number of local officials, the ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The project covers a 25.6-kilometer section of the second lane of the Kabul-Parwan road, stretching from the Bagram intersection to the Jabal Saraj district bazaar, with a width of 10.2 meters.

The remaining asphalt paving work on the road has been contracted to the private sector by the Ministry of Public Works for 342 million Afghanis. Part of the project had previously been completed, while work on the unfinished sections is now underway.

The Bagram-Jabal Saraj Road is considered an important transport route connecting the capital, Kabul, with the northern provinces.

Upon completion, the project is expected to facilitate the movement of vehicles and the transportation of commercial goods and agricultural products.

The Ministry of Public Works said it has also resumed and extended contracts for a number of unfinished and remaining projects from the previous administration alongside implementing new development projects in the country's transport infrastructure sector.

The ministry added that it was committed to completing infrastructure projects with improved quality and in accordance with technical standards. **The Kabul Times**

Over 3,000 Afghans Return from Pakistan,Iran in Single Day

KABUL: A total of 616 Afghan families, comprising 3,293 individuals, returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran on the previous day, the High Commission for Addressing the Problems of Afghan Refugees said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the commission, 856 families were safely transported to their respective home provinces.

The statement said 650 families received cash assistance, while 630 SIM cards were also distributed among returnees.

The returnees were additionally provided with healthcare services, food supplies and awareness programs as part of assistance efforts to support their reintegration. **The Kabul Times**

Nuristan's Tragedy: A Call for...

From P3

Ultimately, the tragedy in Nuristan is more than a provincial disaster; it is a national test of compassion, responsibility, and unity. The government's commitment to coordinating relief efforts is an important first step, but lasting recovery will require the combined efforts of public institutions, the private sector, humanitarian organizations, friendly countries, and the Afghan people themselves. The floodwaters may have swept away homes and livelihoods, but they should not wash away hope. By standing together, supporting survivors, honoring the courage of rescuers, and investing in long-term resilience, Afghanistan can help Nuristan recover from this painful chapter. In times of disaster, the true strength of a nation is measured not only by its ability to respond, but by its willingness to ensure that no community is left behind.